

# Becket Keys

Summer-Break  
Brain Workout!



# English 100-109

Summer is a great time to rest after all of your hard-work at school this year.

Here is a little workbook that you can complete over the 6-week period to help keep your brain active.

It is not compulsory, do what you can to a maximum of **30 minutes per day**.

**Enjoy your time off and we look forward to seeing you in September!**

*Work will not be marked*

## COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 1:

'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' written by C.S. Lewis.

Looking into the inside, she saw several coats hanging up — mostly long fur coats. There was nothing Lucy liked so much as the smell and feel of fur. She immediately stepped into the wardrobe and got in among the coats and rubbed her face against them, leaving the door open, of course, because she knew that it is very foolish to shut oneself into any wardrobe. Soon she went further in and found that there was a second row of coats hanging up behind the first one. It was almost quite dark in there and she kept her arms stretched out in front of her so as not to bump her face into the back of the wardrobe. She took a step further in — then two or three steps always expecting to feel woodwork against the tips of her fingers. But she could not feel it.

"This must be a simply enormous wardrobe!" thought Lucy, going still further in and pushing the soft folds of the coats aside to make room for her. Then she noticed that there was something crunching under her feet. "I wonder is that more mothballs?" she thought, stooping down to feel it with her hand. But instead of feeling the hard, smooth wood of the floor of the wardrobe, she felt something soft and powdery and extremely cold. "This is very queer," she said, and went on a step or two further.

Next moment she found that what was rubbing against her face and hands was no longer soft fur but something hard and rough and even prickly. "Why, it is just like branches of trees!" exclaimed Lucy. And then she saw that there was a light ahead of her; not a few inches away where the back of the wardrobe ought to have been, but a long way off. Something cold and soft was falling on her. A moment later she found that she was standing in the middle of a wood at night-time with snow under her feet and snowflakes falling through the air.

Lucy felt a little frightened, but she felt very inquisitive and excited as well. She looked back over her shoulder and there, between the dark tree trunks; she could still see the open doorway of the wardrobe and even catch a glimpse of the empty room from which she had set out. (She had, of course, left the door open, for she knew that it is a very silly thing to shut oneself into a wardrobe.) It seemed to be still daylight there. "I can always get back if anything goes wrong," thought Lucy. She began to walk forward, crunch-crunch over the snow and through the wood towards the other light. In about ten minutes she reached it and found it was a lamp-post. As she stood looking at it, wondering why there was a lamp-post in the middle of a wood and wondering what to do next, she heard a pitter patter of feet coming towards her. And soon after that a very strange person stepped out from among the trees into the light of the lamp-post.

He was only a little taller than Lucy herself and he carried over his head an umbrella, white with snow. From the waist upwards he was like a man, but his legs were shaped like a goat's (the hair on them was glossy black) and instead of feet he had goat's hoofs. He also had a tail, but Lucy did not notice this at first because it was neatly caught up over the arm that held the umbrella so as to keep it from trailing in the snow. He had a red woollen muffler round his neck and his skin was rather reddish too. He had a strange, but pleasant little face, with a short pointed beard and curly hair, and out of the hair there stuck two horns, one on each side of his forehead. One of his hands, as I have said, held the umbrella: in the other arm he carried several brown-paper parcels. What with the parcels and the snow it looked just as if he had been doing his Christmas shopping. He was a Faun. And when he saw Lucy he gave such a start of surprise that he dropped all his parcels.

"Goodness gracious me!" exclaimed the Faun.

## QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think that Lucy left the door open?
  - a) So that she could see the empty room
  - b) So that her friends could come after her
  - c) Because it was foolish to be trapped inside a wardrobe
  - d) She needed light
  
2. What did Lucy step on that made a crunching sound?
  - a) Wooden wardrobe
  - b) Tree branches
  - c) Mothballs
  - d) Snow
  
3. What does the word 'queer' mean?
  - a) Silly
  - b) Obvious
  - c) Strange
  - d) Frightening
  
4. What does the word 'inquisitive' mean?
  - a) Curious
  - b) Scared
  - c) Confused
  - d) Doubtful

5. How did Lucy end up in the woods?
- a) The wardrobe was enormous
  - b) She left the door open
  - c) The wardrobe had no back
  - d) The wardrobe was magical
6. Where was the light coming from which Lucy followed?
- a) Daylight
  - b) The room
  - c) Lamp-post
  - d) Between the dark tree trunks
7. Who made the 'pitter-patter' sound?
- a) Faun
  - b) A postman
  - c) Lucy
  - d) A Goat
8. Why was Faun a 'strange person'?
- a) He had no tail
  - b) He had only one horn
  - c) He had hoofs instead of feet
  - d) He was shorter than Lucy
9. Why didn't Lucy notice Faun's tail at first?
- a) It was covered with snow
  - b) He hung it on his arm
  - c) He didn't have a tail
  - d) She was distracted by his hoofs
10. What colour was Faun's face?
- a) White with snow
  - b) Red
  - c) Glossy black
  - d) Brown

Read this extract from 'The Witches' by Roald Dahl.

### The Witches

We were in the big living-room of her house in Oslo and I was ready for bed. The curtains were never drawn in that house, and through the windows I could see huge snowflakes falling slowly on to an outside world that was as black as tar. My grandmother was tremendously old and wrinkled, with a massive wide body which was smothered in grey lace. She sat there majestic in her armchair, filling every inch of it. Not even a mouse could have squeezed in to sit beside her. I myself, just seven years old, was crouched on the floor at her feet, wearing pyjamas, dressing-gown and slippers. 5

"You swear you aren't pulling my leg?" I kept saying to her. "You swear you aren't just pretending?" 10

"Listen," she said, "I have known no less than five children who have simply vanished off the face of this earth, never to be seen again. The witches took them."

"I still think you're just trying to frighten me," I said. 15

"I am trying to make sure you don't go the same way," she said. "I love you and I want you to stay with me."

"Tell me about the children who disappeared," I said. 20

My grandmother was the only grandmother I ever met who smoked cigars. She lit one now, a long black cigar that smelt of burning rubber. "The first child I knew who disappeared", she said, 'was called Ranghild Hansen. Ranghild was about eight at the time, and she was playing with her little sister on the lawn. Their mother, who was baking bread in the kitchen, came outside for a breath of air. 'Where's Ranghild?' she asked. 25

'She went away with the tall lady,' the little sister said.

'What tall lady?' the mother said. 30

'The tall lady in white gloves,' the little sister said. 'She took Ranghild by the hand and led her away.' No one', my grandmother said, 'ever saw Ranghild again.'

'Didn't they search for her?' I asked. 35

'They searched for miles around. Everyone in the town helped, but they never found her.'

'What happened to the other four children?' I asked. 40

'They vanished just as Ranghild did.'

**Turn Over**

'How, Grandmamma? How did they vanish?'

'In every case a strange lady was seen outside the house, just before it happened.' 45

"But how did they vanish?" I asked.

"The second one was very peculiar," my grand-mother said. "There was a family called Christian-sen. They lived up on Holmenkollen, and they had an old oil-painting in the living room which they were very proud of. The painting showed some ducks in the yard outside a farmhouse. There were no people in the painting, just a flock of ducks on a grassy farmyard and the farmhouse in the back-ground. It was a large painting and rather pretty. Well, one day their daughter Solveg came home from school eating an apple. She said a nice lady had given it to her on the street. The next morning little Solveg was not in her bed. The parents searched everywhere but they couldn't find her. Then all of a sudden, her father shouted, 'There she is! That's Solveg feeding the ducks!' He was pointing at the oil-painting, and sure enough Solveg was in it. She was standing in the farmyard in the act of throwing bread to the ducks out of a basket. The father rushed up to the painting and touched her. But that didn't help. She was simply a part of the painting, just a picture painted on the canvas. 50 55 60

**Turn Over**

**Section A: Reading**

**Spend 30 minutes on this section.**

Read the passage from *The Witches* by Roald Dahl and answer the questions.

1. (Lines 3-6, 'My grandmother was tremendously...') **In your own words**, explain what the narrator's grandmother looked like.

.....  
.....  
..... [2]

2. From line 9, what does the phrase 'pulling my leg' mean?

..... [1]

3. From lines 22-26, how old was Ranghild when she disappeared?

..... [1]

4. Give 2 descriptions of the lady who took Ranghild.

.....  
..... [2]

5. How many children disappeared altogether?

.....[1]

6. From lines 56-61, where did Solveg go?

.....  
..... [2]

**Turn Over**

7. How did the narrator feel about the stories of the disappearing children? Did she believe the stories? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

.....  
.....  
..... [3]

8. From the whole passage

For each of the words below, circle the letter (A, B, C or D) which has the same meaning that the word has in the passage.

(a) **Drawn** (line 2)

- A worn                      B pull                      C produce                      D shut                      [1]

(b) **Tremendously** (line 4)

- A healthily                      B extremely                      C monstrously                      D hugely                      [1]

(c) **Smothered** (line 4)

- A choked                      B covered                      C trap                      D overwhelm                      [1]

(d) **Vanished** (line 12)

- A disappeared                      B left                      C melted                      D materialised                      [1]

(e) **Peculiar** (line 49)

- A special                      B odd                      C unwell                      D individual                      [1]

Total marks for section A : [17 marks]

Turn Over



**Section B: Grammar**

**Spend 20 minutes on this section.**

1. They have had \_\_\_\_\_ homework in Geography recently.  
**A** lots of      **B** many      **C** much      **D** very      [1]
2. How \_\_\_\_\_ time do you need to finish your project?  
**A** much      **B** any      **C** a lot      **D** many      [1]
3. There are too \_\_\_\_\_ students in the hall.  
**A** lots of      **B** many      **C** much      **D** very      [1]
4. Have you visited \_\_\_\_\_ foreign countries?  
**A** little      **B** any      **C** a lot      **D** many      [1]
5. Although he's \_\_\_\_\_ ill, he didn't take \_\_\_\_\_ medicine.  
**A** much...much      **B** little....any      **C** a lot....lots of      **D** very...any      [1]
6. Few people know as \_\_\_\_\_ about history as John does.  
**A** much      **B** any      **C** a lot      **D** many      [1]
7. They say \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge is a dangerous thing.  
**A** little      **B** any      **C** a lot      **D** many      [1]
8. They \_\_\_\_\_ (rise) at dawn and since then they \_\_\_\_\_ (have) nothing to eat.  
**A** rised...had      **B** rose... had had      **C** rise... had had      **D** rose... had      [1]
9. When I first \_\_\_\_\_ (see) the cloud appear in the sky, I \_\_\_\_\_ (shake) in fear.  
Since then, I \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) increasingly alarmed.  
**A** saw...shaked...felt  
**B** saw...shook...felt  
**C** had saw...shook...have felt  
**D** saw... shook...have felt      [1]

**Turn Over**

10. The bowl still \_\_\_\_\_ (lie) on the table, but someone \_\_\_\_\_ (break) one of them.  
**A** laid...broke    **B** laid...broken    **C** lay...had broken    **D** laid...had broken    [1]
11. If you can't \_\_\_\_\_ where you were last night, mother will not forgive you.  
**A** abide by  
**B** agree with  
**C** account for  
**D** allow for    [1]
12. You must \_\_\_\_\_ the school rules, it is disrespectful to go against them.  
**A** abide by  
**B** agree with  
**C** account for  
**D** allow for    [1]
13. Tommy \_\_\_\_\_ countless obstacles before he could achieve all that he has today, and for that, he is very grateful.  
**A** held on  
**B** kicked off  
**C** went through  
**D** made fun of    [1]

**Turn Over**

**Section C: Essay Writing**

**Spend 40 minutes on this section.**

Begin your answer on a fresh page.

Write on one of the following topics.

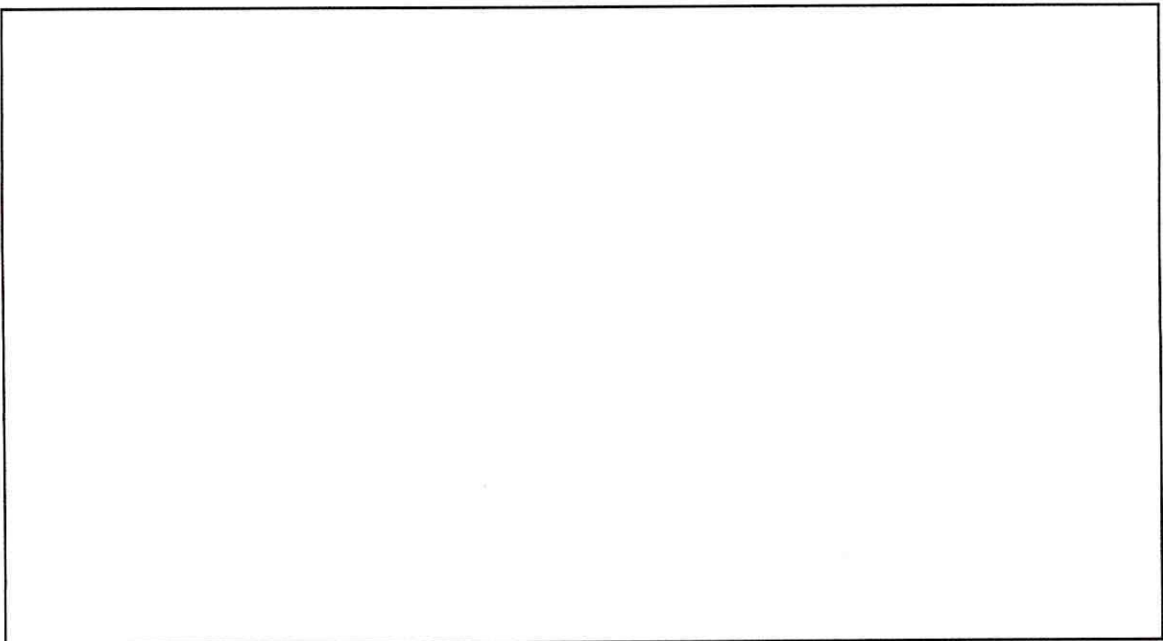
At the head of your essay put the number of the topic you have chosen.

You are advised to write between 200 and 250 words. Total marks for this part: 30.

Topics 1–5

1. Describe a day in the rainforest.
2. Imagine you were living in the future, 30 years later; write about how your life is like. What do you do? What has changed? Are you happy? Etc
3. Should handphones be allowed in the classroom? Why or why not? Give your reasons and examples.
4. A scary dream.
5. If I were a dinosaur.

You may plan your essay in the empty space given below.







**Date:**

Reading Comprehension

**Learning Objective:** I can read and understand a fable



For eons, the Wind and the Sun had been bitter rivals. Each believed themselves the stronger. Each believed themselves the mightier. Each believed themselves more capable of imposing their will upon the Earth.

One day, a traveller was walking along a well-worn path, wearing a thick woollen cloak and scarf upon her shoulders. The flowers danced in the meadows either side of the road and the birds sang their sweet melodies in the oak and willow trees. These

sights and sounds soothed her weary soul as she trudged along the road, her feet aching and her back hunched.

The Wind looked down upon the traveller and said, "Sun, old friend, I propose a competition, so that we might decide, once and for all, who of us is truly the mightiest. Look at that human walking below. Do you see how she is wrapped tight in her woollen cloak? They are so fragile, these mortals, these humans, are they not? Well, whoever of us can remove that cloak off her shoulders shall be declared the winner. What say you, Sun?"

The Sun replied, "Wind, must we? Leave this poor creature alone. Humans are so feeble and fragile. Their lives are short and full of suffering. Leave her be, Wind; human life is hard enough."

"Oh, I see, Sun; you are scared - a coward!" The Wind responded smugly. "Well then, I propose a new competition. If you can take that cloak off the traveller, then not only will you be declared the mightier, but I will let her travel safely. If I win, I will be declared the mightiest, and I shall blow her town to the ground. What say you?"

The Sun frowned and sighed. "Very well, you first."

"With pleasure!" the Wind smirked. The Wind blew upon the traveller, but she wrapped the cloak tighter around herself. The Wind blew harder, and the traveller wrapped the cloak tighter around herself. The Wind blew harder and colder, so much that the traveller shivered and struggled to stand, but she found a tree, sat beneath it, and wrapped the cloak around her tighter. "AHHHHH! It is impossible!" The Wind bellowed.

"Maybe..." smiled the Sun, "Maybe not." The Sun gently shone a bit brighter, making the air warm and pleasant and balmy. The traveller stood up, stretched, and smiled. She took off her cloak, and lay contentedly on the lush green grass, happy to delay her journey to enjoy the balmy sunshine.

"Well done, Sun, you are victorious," the Wind said, "Well done indeed." Later, the traveller continued on her way to Manchester, reuniting with those she loved.

1. What word in paragraph one means “a very long period of time”?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. In paragraph 2, what suggests that the weather is not hot?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What verb in paragraph 2 suggests that the traveller is physically tired and walking slowly?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Find and copy 1 word/phrase that shows many people have walked along the path before the traveller.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What word, used by the Wind, means “delicate”?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Tick true or false for each of these statements:

Statement	True or False
The Wind is the one who proposes the competition	
The birdsong makes the traveller feel uncomfortable	
The Sun makes the weather unpleasantly hot	
The traveller takes off their jacket when the wind blows	
The Sun wins the competition	

7. Look at the table below. In the left hand column, there are events from the story. Place the numbers 1-8 in the right hand column, to show the order that these events happened in the story. The first has been done for you.

Event	What order did this occur in the story
The Wind proposes a competition to the Sun	
The traveller begins her journey along the path	1
The Wind blows hard upon the traveller	
The Sun refuses to take part in the competition	
The traveller sits down beneath a tree to escape the wind	
The Sun agrees to take part in the competition	
The traveller safely arrives at her destination	
The traveller takes off her cloak.	

8. What does the traveller hear on her journey that makes it a less unpleasant experience?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Which of these is the most appropriate message of this fable. Tick ONE

Be grateful for what you have	
Gentle persuasion is more powerful than force	
Eat your vegetables	
If a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well	

**Date:**

Spelling, punctuation and grammar



**Learning Objective:** I understand how to use apostrophes of possession and omission.

- 1) Combine these words into a single contracted word
    - a) Do + not =
    - b) I + will =
    - c) You + will =
    - d) She + would =
    - e) He + would =
    - f) They + would =
    - g) It + would =
    - h) You + are =
    - i) I + am =
    - j) Can + not =
    - k) Could + not =
    - l) Should + not =
  - 2) Uncontract these words
    - a) Wouldn't =
    - b) It's =
    - c) They'll =
    - d) Let's =
    - e) Didn't =
    - f) Haven't =
    - g) You've =
    - h) You'll =
    - i) I'd =
    - j) We'd =
  - 3) Input the apostrophes of possession into these sentences.
    - a. Gian looked closely at Rahimas books.
    - b. Life thieves in the night, the cats stalked stealthily through Elliotts garden.
    - c. In the balmy cool of the oak trees shade, Naygi sat and read her mothers favourite book.
    - d. With the fury of an erupting volcano, Athena ravaged Arachnes tapestry.
  - e. The birds sang their sweet melodies in the willow trees, and the blood-red roses bloomed in Sophias garden.
  - f. In the Moons pale light, Keiden sat and thought deeply, pondering all of lifes great mysteries.
  - g. Amongst the clouds, the birds soared, looking down upon the vast citys many buildings.
  - h. "I am seeking entry into the Emperors palace," she announced, as she stood outside the palaces gargantuan wooden door.
  - i. Faaiz noticed something glittering and glistening brightly beneath Amiras desk, but he didn't want to attract anybodys attention to it.
- 4) Below each sentence, decide if the apostrophe indicates possession or omission.
    - a. He visited his friend's hometown.  
=
    - b. They didn't notice the helicopter.  
=
    - c. Surely, they'll arrive on time.  
=
    - d. As the clock struck midnight, a strange rustling began from Aurora's garden.  
=
    - e. Shayaan sat upon the galloping horse's back, and rode along the pebbly path.  
=



This activity is all about understanding the power of individual words, and discovering the special meaning behind each word in our vast vocabulary. Give it your best effort!

**Part 1: Synonyms and Antonyms**

1. Circle the one close synonym for satisfied:
  - a. Lethargic
  - b. Contented
  - c. Frustrated
  - d. Enthusiastic
2. Circle the close synonym for rapidly:
  - a. Sluggishly
  - b. Carefully
  - c. Swiftly
  - d. Enthusiastically
3. Circle the synonym for see-through
  - a. Opaque
  - b. Transpiration
  - c. Transparent
  - d. Glass
4. Circle the ANTONYM (opposite) of energetically
  - a. Enthusiastically
  - b. Eagerly
  - c. Lethargically
  - d. Carefully
5. Circle the ANTONYM of generous
  - a. Lavish
  - b. Extravagant
  - c. Tight-fisted
  - d. Spacious
6. Circle the close SYNONYM of "planned to"
  - a. Inspired
  - b. Intended
  - c. Insisted
  - d. Impacted

**Part 2: Vivid Verbs and Adverbs**

7. Which verb probably describes somebody walking around ANGRILY?:
  - a. Strolled
  - b. Stumbled
  - c. Meandered
  - d. Stomped
8. Which verb describes somebody walking around STEALTHILY?:
  - a. Stalked
  - b. Trudged
  - c. Rolled
  - d. Hopped
9. Which verb probably describes somebody who is fatigued walking around?:
  - a. Trudged
  - b. Skipped
  - c. Stumbled
  - d. Strode
10. Which verb describes somebody asking a question?:
  - a. Declared
  - b. Queried
  - c. Mumbled
  - d. Announced
11. To keep people motivated, the teacher spoke...
  - a. Vainly
  - b. Slowly
  - c. Enthusiastically
  - d. Quietly
12. The neighbours were disturbed because Mr Mckenzie was celebrating too...
  - a. Stealthily
  - b. Raucously
  - c. Calmly

**Part 2: Words in our World**

13. A Canadian is from Canada, a Brazilian is from Brazil, a Spaniard is from...
- Sweden
  - Spain
  - Senegal
  - Space
14. The NHS stands for...
- No Happy Starfish
  - National Health Service
  - National Happiness Service
  - Night-time Health Service
15. Who would you hire to design a house:
- An archaeologist
  - An anthropologist
  - An architect
  - An aardvark
16. A scientist who primarily studies animals is a...
- Zoologist
  - Meteorologist
  - Botanist
  - Wizard
17. The sea is composed of...
- Freshwater
  - Saltwater
  - Cherry Cola
18. Which of these is most likely to be the title of a non-chronological report?
- The Lord of The Rings
  - A Tale of Two Cities
  - Goldilocks and the three bears
  - Information about Sharks
19. A disease that spreads rapidly is highly:
- Angry
  - Infectious
  - Ticklish
20. A scientist who studies rocks is called:
- A rockologist
  - Dave
  - A geologist
21. In the British government, MP stands for:
- Mr Potato
  - Mostly perfect
  - Member of Parliament

**Part 3: Word problems. Read VERY carefully!**

22. It is five minutes since the clock struck six. The time is:
- 6 O'Clock
  - Five minutes to 6
  - Five minutes past 6
23. The show started at 3:15. Gian arrived 10 minutes early, and Abubakar arrived 5 minutes before Gian. What time did Abubakar arrive?
- 3:15
  - 3 O'Clock
  - 5 minutes past 3
24. Shiyao has read 8 books this year. Amira read 13 books last year. Who read the most books last year?
- Shiyao
  - Amira
  - We can't tell from this information
25. Year 5 are painting. Sze-Ting uses red paint, orange paint and 2 buckets of cyan paint. Faaiz uses 5 pots of purple paint, and a splatter of black paint. Hong-Yin uses 7 buckets of white paint and some magenta paint. Who has used the most different colours of paint?:
- Sze-Ting
  - Faaiz
  - Hong-Yin

**Date:**

Spelling, punctuation and grammar

**Learning Objective:** I can correctly use the there/their/they're homophone



Carefully read the sentences below. Input the correct version of the there/their/they're homophone into the gaps.

- i. The altruistic children donated \_\_\_\_\_ money to charity.
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_ are 100 centimetres in a metre.
- iii. Slowly and carefully, the foxes pursued \_\_\_\_\_ prey.
- iv. After the marathon, \_\_\_\_\_ going to feel exhausted!
- v. Before sunrise, \_\_\_\_\_ was a devastating earthquake.
- vi. Although the journey will be long and difficult, \_\_\_\_\_ not going to give up!
- vii. Plants absorb energy from sunlight using \_\_\_\_\_ leaves.
- viii. "\_\_\_\_\_ are 24 hours in a day on Earth, and \_\_\_\_\_ are 365 days in a non-leap year on Earth," the intelligent scientist explained to her friends.
- ix. They worked hard, because they wanted to make \_\_\_\_\_ world better.
- x. As the curious boy looked at the blood-red flowers, he said, "\_\_\_\_\_ so beautiful!"
- xi. "I adore the Harry Potter books because \_\_\_\_\_ full of mystery and adventure!" he cheerfully remarked.
- xii. Like a thief in the night, the children crept out of \_\_\_\_\_ bedrooms, hunting for midnight snacks in \_\_\_\_\_ kitchen.
- xiii. \_\_\_\_\_ were 2 paths that led through the forest; one would lead them to \_\_\_\_\_ home, and the other would lead them to \_\_\_\_\_ doom.